District of Kerala is directly under Government of India;

(b) if so, the amount allotted and spent in this block for the welfare of Adivasi under various heads, providing details for the last three years;

(c) the total number of Adivasis in this block and whether any survey regarding the latest status of the Adivasis has been taken, if so, details thereof;

(d) whether Government have received complaints regarding misappropriation of Tribal Welfare funds in this Block; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government alongwith details?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per 1991 Census (which is the latest) the number of Scheduled Tribe is 25028.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Increasing Population of Blind People of India

613. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of exact population of blind people of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the population of blinds are increasing; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to provide livelihood to the maximum of blind people in India?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) The exact population of blind people of India is not available in the Ministry of Welfare. However, as per the latest Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, there are about 4.01 million persons in the country suffering from visual disability.

(d) The measures being taken to provide livelihood to the persons with disabilities including blind people in India are indicated in the statement attached. *(See below)*

Statement

(1) *Employment*

(i) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from:-

(a) blindness or low vision;

(b) hearing impairment; and

(c) Locomotor disability or cerebral palsy

In the post identified for each disability. 3% reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' for handicapped persons had already been there even before the Law came into force. In pursuance of this provision, extension of 3% reservation in Group 'A' & 'B' posts under the Central Government for physically handicapped persons-1% each for visually, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped have been notified by DOPT's Circular No. 36035/16/91-Estt. (SCT) dated 18.2.97.

(ii) 47 Special Employment Exchanges and 41 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exculsively to help the handicapped persons in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchange also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self employment is promoted through the following:—

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Governments/UTs.

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional Rates of Interest;

(c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol Pumps, Kerosene Depots etc.

(2) A National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.97 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to provide opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the disabled persons to set up self-employment ventures.

Fight Against the Menace of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

614. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed on 26th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the effective measures being taken by Government to fight against the menace of drug abuse with the greater thrust on the vulnerable sections of the society like street children, sex workers, truck drivers, tribal belts, students, girls etc; and

(c) if not, the specific reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Welfare is implementing the Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention since 1985-86 wherein grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organisations for setting up of Drug De-adiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Drug Awareness Counselling Centres and for conducting Awareness Preventive Education Programmes. One of the main objectives of the Scheme is to promote collective initiatives and self-help endeavours among individuals and groups vulnerable to addiction or found at risk which inter-alia include street children, commerial sex workers, tribal population etc. The Ministry is also constantly interacting with the NGOs receiving grant under the Scheme to focus more attention on these targt groups. The Ministry has also addressed to the State Governments to assess the requirement for the specialised Centres for treatment and rehabilitation of women, child drug addicts and commercial sex workers.

The Ministry in collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organisations (WHO) and National Aids Control Programme (NACO), Ministry of Health, Overseas Development Agency (ODA) has also conducted a study on "Reducing risk behaviour relating to HIV/AIOs/STD, Drug Abuse amongst street children". City level Workshops in 4 cities viz. Bombay, Hyderabad, Calcutta and Delhi as well as a National Workshop has been held for developing city level and national level work plans.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of Special Component Plan

615. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) The Statge and Union territories where the special component plan for scheduled caste is being implemented; and

(b) the details of assets created during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97?